



Climate change: Heat, health, and longer horizons

Author(s): McMichael AJ, Dear KB
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Abstract:

Public concern over climate-change impacts has mostly focused on the economic, physical, and political domains. The consequences for various industries, agriculture, livelihoods, national gross domestic product, property, infrastructure, and electoral prospects have captured most attention. In this issue of PNAS, Sherwood and Huber apply a longer than usual perspective on climate change and conclude that, because of limits to human tolerance of heat, much of Earth's surface may not be habitable by 2300. Their important, related, and overarching statement is that "current assessments are underestimating the seriousness of climate change". They argue that, whereas high-profile threats such as sea-level rise and economic slowdown have caused widespread anxieties, their impacts on human communities would pale into insignificance in a world that might, thermally, become partly or wholly uninhabitable by humans.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2906883>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Other Health Impact

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Other Health Impact: heat stress

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Model/Methodology: ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction, Outcome Change Prediction

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Resilience: ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)